Dear Jim, Write me WW IV

12/3/74

Your letter of the 29th came today. And I'm awaiting a call that was to be any time after the 2 p.m. news on a Bloomington, Ill., radio station. I expect it will now be after the coming station break.

I'm reassured by your comment on WW IV. The time of the writing was one of the worst, I took about two days for it and I was worried. More because Lesar has a bill of particulars of complaint, including also allegations of factual error, by Hoch.

By now, after it is clear that I've reached multimillions of people and most newspapers readers, for the first time with no nasty cracks, it is expecting too much of poor frustrated Paul to face himself and what he almost ruined. I have nonetheless tried to fill him in on attention. Without response.

One of my concerns is that in haste I may have erred as Howard and Jim did not detect. Of course I'm not aware of any. But when one rushes...

You read my intentions clearly. I had gone overboard in trying for them. I had written originally perhaps only a dozen pages. I then threw it away and started anew, but again without having or taking time for any outlining. It was, originally, too spare. Too stark. Too much standing on its own.

In today's mail a young one in Sacramento includes the WxPost's service story, from the Bee. Almost 45 column inches on page one. I've heard of but not seen other page-one treatments.

I think your hunch on how AP came to give it so good a play is probably correct. I hadn't even thought of anything but ineffeciency.

When UPI gave it a good play five days later I took that as a good sign, too.

For us, of course, the major problem is no real distribution. With this kind of play and real distribution we'd be reprinting now!

District News in Washington is waiting for the battering rams on their warehouse doors. With 500 copies in stock. And the one Washington bookstore that wrote and asked for copies - where I asked Jim to take time and deliver them yesterday - told Human Events this a.m. that they didn't have them. Not very encouraging.

I'm in the middle of the broadcast, which had taken another break for news.

I appreciate the optical troubles. Here they spell merely money. You'll find Jim's part easier on the eyes. He has a new machine with a carbon ribbon. We had Phil's old and well-used one a cheap ribbobs. Maybe someday...

What is also surprising is that there are many of the "buffs" from whom I've heard nothing. Even Hal.

Many surprises. I've heard from only two of the radio old-timers, the Milwaukee station and Kevin. I've written Eason twice without response. Another is that with so many fewer talk shows I've done more phone broadcasting in less time then ever before. But the stations are new to me and I don't know their saize or ratings.

Anyway, glad to get your evaluation. It is encouraging.

Best,